

Point three



June 1994
The magazine of TOCH



Filling the Cannock Chase Wildlife Pond

Ordination of Women

Branch News - Letters - How TOCH Changed my Life

Breaking the Sound Barrier - Literally Speaking

Point three

The Magazine of Toc H

Toc H is a movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is a group - at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood - which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Revd P B 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

1. *To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.*
2. *To give personal service.*
3. *To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.*
4. *To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.*

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world, as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points. Letters, articles and news items are welcomed and should be addressed to The Editor, *Point three*, at the address below.

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H movement.

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Reconcile the conflicts

Over breakfast a few weeks ago, reading the front page of my church newspaper, every headline heralded a story of conflict in the Church of England. One priest was threatening to challenge the ordination of women in every court in Europe. Another headline introduced an appeal to clergy opposing women priests, to act with less haste. Yet another was encouraging Church Councils to appoint their own minister without a Bishops' Licence.

Perhaps, I thought, I ought to pray that parishioners would never read the press - national or church. Give us peace, Lord, in our world, our time and especially in our church, please?

We live in the most violent of all centuries. The World Wars, the tension of power struggles, the escalating crime and human deprivation in our own land, let alone abroad, appals many of our people. We seem to be losing confidence in our politicians, in our ability to find solutions, and in our churches. What can we do?

First of all it is helpful to look at conflict. Like many others, I get fed up, frustrated and annoyed when we so regularly shoot ourselves in the foot. But the early church was far better at it. The disciples must have exasperated our Lord by jockeying for position, being quite stupid at times, showing impatience, small mindedness and getting heated over problems. The Acts of the Apostles and the Letters of St Paul give examples of hefty rows and disagreements among early Christians. However that same church had trust in the Holy Spirit which enabled them to fan the flame of the Gospel across much of the then civilised world.

I well remember Gilbert Francis, when General Secretary, visiting Toc H branches and praying that *we may love those whom we find it difficult to love*. It was real to me because Toc H members were so good at argument and getting stroppy, but ending with acceptance and excellent concern, one for another. Toc H offers a dimension of living which benefits others in our communities. However, almost as a 'spin-off', it fosters and increases our own inward spiritual wealth.

We have had major conflicts in our Toc H Movement, because conflict and division are part of our humanity and freedom. However, living and sustained by the deep principles of the Movement, coded for us in the Four Points of the Compass, we have to keep faith that conflict can be offered to God, and receive new birth. As we work for the Kingdom in the wills of all, we achieve peace and high hearted happiness. Whatever the fears, unpleasantness, anxieties and conflicts, LOVE really does conquer all. Sometimes we need to let go and let God.

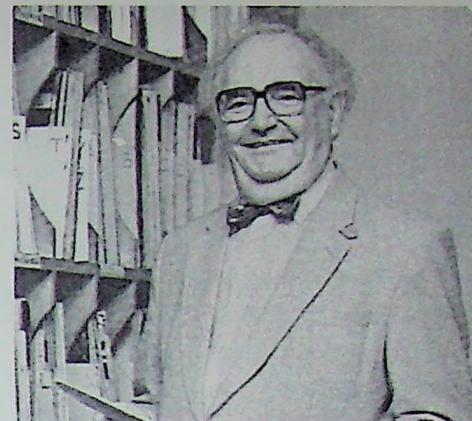
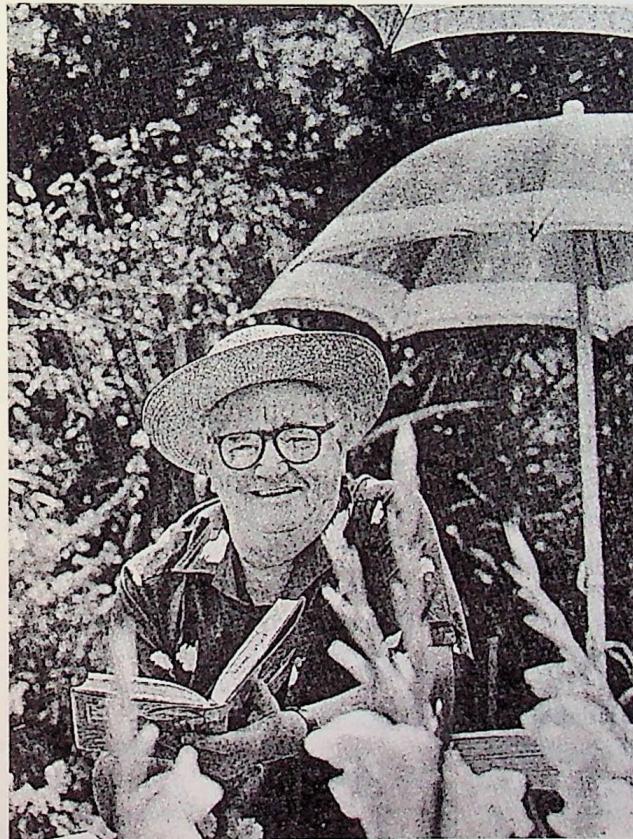
After all, our format for living is not instant problem solving but trust in the model of that first Good Friday and wonderful Easter-Day!

Revd Brian A Blade
former Honorary Regional Padre,
Mid Eastern and Yorks

How D-Day and Toc H changed my life

It was May 1944. I was 18 years old - a child at war - on the brink of an extraordinary experience. With the Royal Navy, in a Combined Ops unit waiting for D-Day, I was camped under canvas on Southampton Common, along with thousands of smelly, dusty, tough (some of us), commando types, mostly from Canada. My persistent yearning was for a nice hot bath. Chance led me to discover a house in the town which advertised itself as Toc H. I soon found that, apart from it being the best place to get a good cuppa, as well as somewhere to read and write, you could actually get a hot bath. It cost fourpence and had the obligatory line painted round it, signifying the five inches of water allowed.

My war came and went and I succeeded in killing as many Germans as they did me. I finished up in Hamburg, then the headquarters of the British Forces broadcasting network. Being a nosy sort of individual, I called at the studios and was immediately roped in to take part in a recording of a discussion programme about classical music. I knew nothing of the subject, which made me the ideal contributor! Other broadcasts followed and I was bitten by the broadcasting bug. At that time I had no thoughts of making a career of it - that was to come later.



His Majesty sent me another postcard - the last one had been in 1943 - and this second missive thanked me for my service and asked that I present myself to be clothed in the demob uniform of grey striped suit and trilby hat. Thus clad, I went home to Northampton, where a friend, who was a member of that mysterious organisation called Toc H, invited me to a meeting. And that was it. I was in. The year was 1946.

Some decades later my family moved to Birmingham, where local Toc H people were involved with the hospital radio service. Because of my Hamburg experience, I joined in and was soon a busy volunteer broadcaster. My amateur status changed to part-time professional freelance with the BBC. My Toc H job was already shaping my future career on the other side of the world, with a whole raft of coincidences playing their part. IF I had not had the fourpenny bath in Southampton, IF I had not ended the war in Hamburg, IF I had not visited the radio studios, IF I had not joined Toc H in Northampton, IF I had not moved to Birmingham and taken up with Toc H there, I would not have auditioned for, and got, a job as a radio and television announcer in New Zealand in 1968.

And IF I had not come here, I would not have been honoured with the post of Honorary Commissioner of Toc H New Zealand while continuing as a broadcaster, collecting a few awards on the way and travelling 1.5 million kilometres around the world in search of programme material.

So, as you can see, I believe in coincidences and can honestly say that Toc H and D-Day changed my life 50 years ago.

Philip Liner
Hon Commissioner Toc H New Zealand

Breaking the Sound Barrier

A Cameo exploring issues around communication

The intention of the Breaking the Sound Barrier Cameo weekend was to bring together young deaf and hearing people to explore their differences, while working together on a series of shared tasks - the nature trails at Cannock Chase - and through living together as a community for a weekend.

The key was to overcome the barrier of communication between us. We had been made aware that difficulties in this area should be confronted and persevered with, even before the Cameo began. The normal situation is that the deaf community have to make all the effort in this hearing world if they want to be understood. The balance was redressed that weekend by putting the hearing participants in the minority, and British sign language was the main means of communication.

I began the proceedings with a talk on the aims of the weekend and an introduction to Toc H, using pictures and gestures wherever possible. We then spent ten minutes looking at a poster - you had to stare into it for a long time to see a 3D picture - in an attempt to illustrate the main aim of the weekend. This was all about getting to know each other as

individuals by persevering to overcome the barriers of communication that may stand in the way. Significantly, very few people saw the picture in that first ten minutes, but by the end of the weekend all but one were able to focus on it.

Janet Wardle then did some formal deaf-awareness work with the group. We paired up and came back to the main group with information about our partner, which had been gained without using any sound and without writing anything down. We then learnt the deaf participants' sign names, a sort of nickname which is easily communicated by a gesture, and chose sign names for the hearing participants. The variety of potential nicknames suggested was an indication of the sense of trust and safety that had already built up within the group.

On Saturday we drew deaf/hearing pairs out of a hat to be work partners for the day. They had to find out five things in common to share with the group by the end of the day. This proved to be a good starting point for communication to be kept going throughout the working part of the day.

After dinner and group activities, the group discussed in depth some of their own experiences which had resulted from poor communication.

On Sunday we asked people to write down their thoughts about the weekend. They included the following:

- Language is important.
- Different ability NOT disability.
- We have more in common than not.
- Never pre-judge people.
- Experiment with putting minority groups in the majority.

We then lit a candle and entered a period of reflection. Each person drew a picture to illustrate some aspect of the weekend and what it had meant to them. Although this proved a difficult task, the response was very good. We closed by leaving a sheet of paper for each person in the room, each of us writing our personal positive thoughts about participants, for them to take home.

Since the Cameo, links between Toc H and Friends for the Young Deaf (FYD) have been cemented further. Alison Bryon, a volunteer worker at FYD, is moving into the Toc H Community House in Birmingham. This is as a direct result of the Cameo.

Mark Henman

Literally Speaking

This project went ahead despite snow blizzard warnings and the fear that, while we might make it to Colsterdale, getting back home afterwards might be more of a problem. However, as we had all met up to help one another with literacy skills, there was a lot of warmth in spite of the weather.

We played games, wrote menus and shopping lists, planned trips, made up quizzes, did treasure hunts - when we did venture outside - and generally had a very productive time, constantly using the reading and writing skills we so often take for granted in life.

At the end of our time together we



considered how this project had measured up to the Four Points of the Toc H Compass, summarised

for everyone to readily understand them, and the following is the response we got:

Friendship

- Making new friends.
- Getting to know people better, seeing them as a whole person.
- Bringing out the best in each other.
- Keeping in contact and developing a strong bond with some people.
- Sharing similar interests.
- Learning from each other.

Helping others

- Helping with meals.
- Pushing minibus out of snow (yes, we nearly did get stuck!).
- Listening and quiet periods.
- Helping others build a snowman.
- Possibility of a reunion.
- Helping others by pushing them slightly.
- Being observant.
- Working towards a goal.
- Helping to carry items in and out of the minibus.
- Helping others in organised chaos.
- Helping with playing games, cooperating.

- Helping people out of trouble.
- Helping others by saying thank you.
- Helping people by encouraging them to join and have a go.
- Chris helped Brian and vice versa on a long walk on the first night.

Accepting others

- Open discussion on prison amongst the group.
- People being more open about their past.
- One person who created situations for everyone to join in.
- Agreement towards any decisions made.
- The way we had been put in teams and had the chance to meet everyone.
- Choices and agreements in everything.
- Playing 'therapy', everyone had to be prepared to listen to what was said.
- We have all begun to gain trust between each other.
- No judging of other people's backgrounds or status.

Christian Way

- Going to the Cathedral in Ripon, it felt special and beautiful and gave a close feeling.
- Living in a community with each other, we have 'entertained strangers' and shared what we have and what we are with each other.
- We have served and been served.
- The beauty outside and the space to enjoy it and each other.
- Time away from stress, to think, reflect and look ahead.
- Loving each other, looking for the good in each other.
- Good atmosphere.
- Trust in each other and not taking offence.

I felt very humbled as these lists were read out, just showing how much people had appreciated the project, but also how they could see the connection between their experience of this project and the principles of Toc H.

Norah Phipps
Field Officer

THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN

For the second article in this series, *Ruth Boyd* spoke to *Freida Beveridge*, one of the first women to be ordained in the Oxford Diocese, on 17 April. Surrounded by 'congratulation' cards at her home in Milton Keynes, Freida looked back on events that had led to her becoming part of the making of history. She is Chairperson of the Movement for the Ordination of Women.

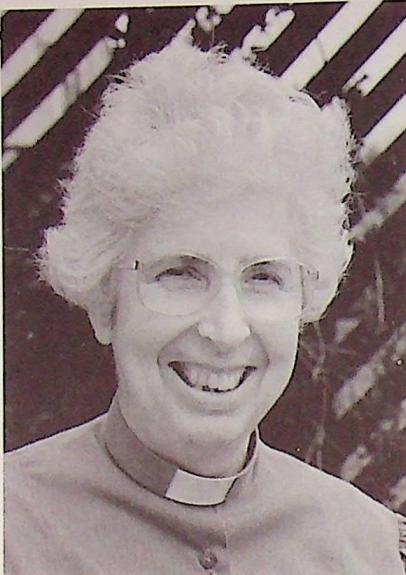
The majority of women who've come into the priesthood have had other careers first, which gives them a broader perspective of the world. This is now becoming the trend for all clergy and is very much welcomed in parishes. In the selection process today it is an exception for someone to go into the church straight from university. Most of the women being ordained are in their 30's and early 40's, and this is increasingly applying to men too.

My own background is in teaching and in the Local Authority Careers Service. I left to get married and my husband's job moved us away.

My calling for the church seemed to grow from the experience of my husband's death when I was at the relatively young age of 38. The experience certainly deepened my faith considerably. But then I think that's the way God works, and that is one of the paradoxes I have to live with. At the time of my ordination a part of me thought, *if only he could be here*, but another part of me asked, *if he were still alive, would I have had the deep experience that actually brought me into ministry?* You just don't know, do you?

Equally, I know that the experience of being bereaved has enabled me to share and understand the suffering of others. God uses it all. I am convinced God uses our pain to help others.

After my husband died, I carried on working in the Careers Service for a few years before going to



Cuddesdon College for two years to study theology. I was then in my mid-40s.

I was made a deaconess by Bishop Patrick, former Bishop of Oxford. As a deaconess you are in Orders, but not in Holy Orders. I was then ordained deacon by Bishop Simon, Bishop of Buckingham, in 1987.

In 1987 I worked as a Deacon in north Oxford, in the parish of St Giles with St Philip & James & St Margaret. There was a vicar, a part-time curate, who was also a part-time chaplain and me.

Initially I didn't think ordination as a priest was for me. The struggle I had to go through was more in coming to terms with the fact that God had made me a woman and the limitations I had imposed on myself in that role. It linked to the fact of my mother being head of a village school at a time when

women simply didn't work. As a child, I hated that we were different and, looking back, I can see that I was always trying to put myself in the role of a traditional woman, when in fact I am not. I am better suited to a role as a leader.

Being a deaconess fulfilled part of me - the traditional female role - the caring, the counselling, the pastoral care. Being a deacon took me one step further. I came to my present parish in Woughton as deacon in 1988. I had been here about two years when one of the clergy left and I was given the job of looking after their congregation. I thrived on it and was encouraged to take full-time responsibility for my own congregation.

I first realised that I wanted to be ordained priest when I was working in Oxford. The passing of the measure allowing women to be priested was a necessary legal process through the Church Synod. Once it had gone through, the Bishops had to discern whether or not women who were already deacons had a calling to the priesthood. We were each interviewed by our Bishops.

There has been a movement for the ordination of women since 1979 and, before that, an Anglican Group for the ordination of women. There have been many active campaigners working in harmony with others who just quietly got on with their jobs. I think we needed both. I became quite active in the movement and an chairperson.

I can still remember when I first felt strongly about wishing to be ordained. There was an elderly woman reader in my parish in Oxford who, on rare occasions when the vicar was away, used to take the early morning service using the Reserved Sacrament - in other words, using the bread and wine that had already been consecrated. At that time I stated that because I didn't feel a call to the priesthood I didn't feel it would be right for me to do likewise, unless in an emergency. But you don't say things like that in God's hearing.

One Sunday morning I was in the vestry, with the church ready for the early morning service. Time went on and nobody came. Suddenly things clicked and I realised that there was a mistake on the rota and the person who was actually down to take the service was on holiday. I explained the situation to the congregation. They asked me to take the service using the Reserved Sacrament.

I went back to the vestry and thought, 'What do I do? I just had to get on with it. I realised afterwards how totally right it had been and how limited my ministry was without being able to take that particular service. The experience was so powerful for me, that it took two or three weeks before I actually told anyone. It was empowering, awesome, precious and wonderful all rolled in together and I had to hold it to myself for a while until I could find the words to tell anybody. It's all part of the journey of life.

Some people say that women are more naturally suited to the priesthood than men, because they are often more in touch with their feelings and have greater qualities of humility. A part of me wants to agree, but my experience is that there are some incredibly sensitive and caring men in the

priesthood. But I do think that one of the failings of the church has been that we haven't sufficiently honoured and valued those very qualities that initially brought many men into priesthood.

Women in church congregations have often colluded by placing expectations on their priests - qualities of leadership and organisational skills - which may not come naturally and was not what drew them into ministry. We are only just beginning to appreciate that, and to recognise those qualities and gifts. For example, a male colleague recently told me that he valued my ministry as a woman because of my pastoral ability. I protested that his was probably better than my own and that we were both people who were fortunate in having a caring and organising/leadership side to our natures.

One member of my congregation has found the ordination of women a big revelation and example in his own life. It has helped him to realise that he doesn't have to take the entire responsibility for his household, just because he is a man. This has also helped him free his wife from a subordinate role to one of taking joint responsibility.

I think this example gives a great deal of hope for family life. Conversely, many men who have been brought up to believe that they are the providers are having a tough time of it. They feel threatened by women competing in the job market.

The main theological argument against women being ordained doesn't really stand up under close examination. It is stated that Christ didn't choose women as his Apostles. The Apostles weren't in fact priests, and the first Apostle was undoubtedly a woman. The word apostle means, to tell the good news of Christ. The first

person to do that was Mary Magdalene.

I do think there is a lot of fear behind those who are against women priests, and most of those who are afraid are not able to recognise their own fear. In the case of women, it gets caught up in the whole question of women being encouraged to have careers. Women who prefer the role of homemaker are pressured into feeling that they have chosen something less and the fact that women can now be priests may seem the last straw.

One of the saddest aspects in the whole question of ordination is how much the antagonists have lost sight of our ecumenism with non-conformist churches. The Anglican church is a Protestant church and the Roman Catholic church does not recognise our Orders, it does not recognise the Orders of our men and we are not in communion with the Roman Catholic church. We are in communion with the Methodists, the United Reformed church and the Presbyterians, and their stance is that the C of E is finally acknowledging where they have been for a long, long time.

I work in an ecumenical parish, with Methodists and United Reformed church ministers, and they found it strange that, until recently, the Anglican church wouldn't let me do what their women ministers have been doing for many years. We had the irony that a non-conformist woman minister could come into my church and take an Anglican service of Holy Communion, when I couldn't. In an ecumenical setting that is how it can be. Crazy isn't it? So for my first communion service I chose to use the Methodist service. I took my first service on the day I was priested.

Revd Freda Beveridge

An Update on the Cannock Chase Project

The wildlife pond looked impressive with its smart boardwalk bridge set off by the new lifebuoy, nestling in its gleaming red case. The only thing missing in the idyllic scene was the water you would normally expect to see!

Staffordshire Fire Service, while sympathetic, could not help. There is no vehicle access to the pond area and anyway this would have tied up a fire engine for three days, maybe putting lives at risk.

Added to these problems was the fact that we could not use tap water because of its chemical content. Brindley Valley in Cannock Chase is a 'B' rated zone and only materials that are found there naturally can be used.

Our next port of call was South Staffordshire Water. They have been good to us in the past, in providing showers for our base camp, tools and water bowsers. Could they help? 'It's difficult', said their spokesman David Caldicott. 'We will have the same access problems as the Fire Service. Give me your Architect's phone number. Between us we may find a solution,' he added.

Over several days, different suggestions were discussed and discarded. Finally a solution was found. The Fire Service would lend us enough hosepipes to, when joined together, stretch across the most direct route from the pond to the car park. We would have to ensure that these did not 'disappear' - which meant that they would need to be rolled out in the morning and collected in each night. That sounds easy enough, until you remember that these are not your normal garden hoses and their

combined length is about 300 metres. An added complication was the fact that they were stretched over rough, uneven, bracken and heather-covered ground. Over a three-day period, South Staffs Water ferried in 300,000 litres of spring water via large tankers and pumped it through the hoses.

The operation proved successful and all went well. The only setback was when our three stalwarts tried to reel in the hoses. The Almighty decided to help fill the pond and the heavens opened. The two men dived for cover under

the trees, but poor Jenny was caught in the open. The men saw a bedraggled figure slipping and sliding towards them, pushing her barrow, with rivulets of water running off her and laughing uncontrollably at her plight.

It is therefore with great pride, involving not a little tenacity, that Toc H can now proudly announce their completion of a superb wildlife pond, which can be enjoyed by all. We hope it will give pleasure to hundreds of people in the coming year.

Chris Williams



Khasdobir Project - Chickens for Widows

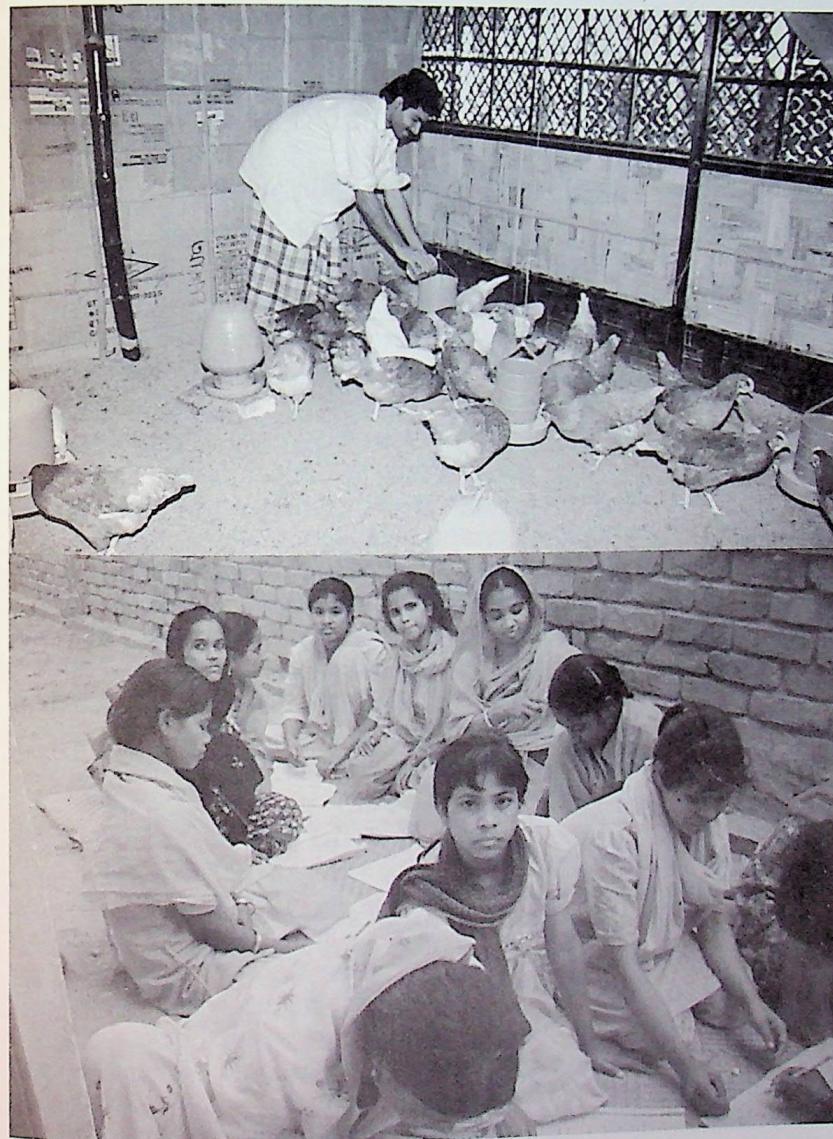
At long last the chicken-rearing programme is under way. Akthar and Sajad received a loan from Khasdobir Youth Action Group to set up a chicken farm. They rear the chickens until they start laying eggs, then some are sold back to KYAG for the widows to look after. This is so that the widows will not have to feed the chickens before they start to lay. Akthar and Sajad will also run a health clinic for the chickens, to ensure they receive the injections at the correct times and will assist the widows with their care.

Other new activities include the family planning programme funded by CARE International, which is run in conjunction with five other Non-Government Organisations in the area. The new centre now houses the Sewing Workshop, the KYAG Office, the CARE Office and a general meeting area which is used daily by one of the Adult Literacy classes. The embroidery workshop has moved to a shop on the airport road, freeing more space for the sewing workshop. There are plans to extend the centre to include toilet facilities (pit latrines are currently used), and

expand the sewing workshop to further. This work has been held over because of the funding situation. It is vital that we make an extra effort at this time, until new funding is secured.

Thanks for your support and Good Luck with all your activities for the Friendship with Khasdobir Day.

Karen Thomson
Development Officer

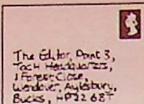


**Nearly ready for laying.
Sajad feeding the older
chickens. Photo by Alan
Scarsbrook.**

**It is mostly women who
attend the adult literacy
classes. Photo by
Jacqui Gooding.**



Your Letters



Memories of Paderborn

I was interested to read that the Overseas Club in Paderborn has been upgraded to a Branch.

I was working at the Club in October 1960, when the attic was converted into a Chapel and consecrated. The work was undertaken by our lads over there and, in December of the same year, the 40th Anniversary of the World Chain of Light took place in the new Chapel. While I was in Paderborn it was arranged for the lads to get together in the club lounge each week, after the evening service, for refreshments and a social evening. The warden at that time was Jack Carrott who worked hard towards the success of the club. Walter Smith helped him in the shop, where newspapers and gifts were sold. My job was being responsible for the canteen, ordering and collecting the food supplies from the NAAFI each day, helping on the counter and covering for staff during their time off. Staffing was kept to a minimum in order to keep down expenses.

While there I much enjoyed the friendship of the padre, Revd Alan Derbyshire, his lovely wife Winnie and their two children, Hannah and Stephen. I was made to feel very welcome in their home and will always remember their kindness. Later I stayed with them in Wiltshire.

Initially I was encouraged to go out to Germany by Bob and Molly Purdy, who were then on the staff in Birmingham. They contacted Bob Preston, the Toc H Commissioner, BAOR, on my behalf. John Calf the Administrator and Geoff Martin, Overseas Secretary, were very helpful. Geoff saw me off from Liverpool Street Station the evening I left for Germany. I have mentioned all these names as they may bring back memories for others as well.

Working for Toc H meant long hours and was a very eventful period in my life. I found the experience of my time in Paderborn helpful, interesting and very rewarding.

Megan Kirkham (nee Chatterton)
Shirley, Solihull

A Thank-you from Toc H India

I receive *Point three* regularly and thank you for the same. It keeps me posted with information of what is going on in the wider Movement. I was particularly interested in reading about Prison Ministry in the UK. Here in India, Revd. Dr. S T Noah is heading a team to visit nine central prisons located in various parts of Tamil Nadu. The biggest, in Delhi, is undergoing a revolutionary experiment, with yoga lessons for lifers and those awaiting the death sentence. The first lady police officer is the top boss in Delhi prison, and started this experiment to change the prisoners' outlook. I am associated with the Revd. Dr. Noah, and supply bibles for the prisoners. During the Christmas period prisoners' families and children were entertained.

Thank you for publishing my little effort in attending to Rajesh, the disabled boy. He has shown much improvement through physiotherapy treatment. I am now trying to find a suitable placement for him. (Branch News, *Point three*, September 1993)

Madras Branch will soon open up a worthwhile project in a rural area and this will be discussed at the India Council meeting in April. More news of this later.

Once again our greetings to all Toc H fraternity over there.

Capt G S Bhaskaran. Madras

In Touch With The Wider World

Bitterne Ladies Branch befriended a Ukrainian couple during World Refugee Year. For 30 years we sent them letters and parcels of food and clothing. One of our members wrote the letters in English and these were sent to Leeds, where the Director of Education translated them. The reply was in Ukrainian, so this was sent to Leeds for translation into English! We also sent them money each year. When they died, aged 90 and 95, we wrote to Toc H in South Africa and asked if they would put us in touch with a girl who would appreciate our help. Her name is Nosabelo. She is studying at Port Elizabeth University to become a chartered surveyor. The local Toc H branch has also befriended her.

A good many years ago we met a South Australian member, who arrived in Southampton by ship. We also met her daughter when she was educated in the UK. I still write to her and she sends *The Link* magazine, which is passed around the branch. I have three children who live in Melbourne, so when I visited them in 1984 I stayed with Ken and Leila Attschawager. I visited South Harbour Branch and still write to a member. I also went to the annual Toc H Dinner where I made friends with Ray and Helen Galpin. They visited me when they came to the United Kingdom and we still exchange calendars and news at Christmas.

Mollie Maullin. Southampton

The Ordination of Women

For me, there should be no argument about women being priests in the Anglican church, and using quotes from the Bible to argue against such a step is absurd.

I am a Methodist, and can't understand the workings of Anglican minds - with their fancy robes and posturing. They seem to rely on dogma, on reiterating prayers which were written eons ago. Not prayers from the heart.

There are far more women than men attending our chapels and churches. If it were not for them, our churches would be nearly empty. And whenever there are bazaars and functions to raise money, who do you find doing all the work - the women. And still some men want to deny them the right to get up and preach the gospel! Why do they feel so threatened?

No matter what denomination you belong to, you go to church to worship God. No matter who is passing on the bible message, man or woman, they are going to tell you about Jesus, God, The Holy Spirit or Comforter. My experience of women in the priesthood is that they are far more modest and unassuming than men. They do not allow their own personalities and hang-ups to get in the way of the message they are communicating through the Gospel. They have a different perspective and are often humbler and wiser in the way they look at life. Women bring life into the world, something that men cannot do!

Our church's minister fulfils her duties rather better than her predecessors, who were all good men. I even venture to think that woman is closer to God. She can be more fervent than man in love, religion and emotion, and is invariably more mature.

Fred Hall. Kidderminster

The Ordination of Women

You invite letters discussing women's ordination. As a dissident, may I praise the article of Philip Griffin setting forth the point of view of those of us who are opposed to women priests. He is a young man; I am an old man. I kept the 60th anniversary of my priesting last year; I joined Toc H in 1934.

As he says, we have all of us thought of the Anglican church as part of the worldwide Catholic church. He speaks of the Church of England as 'Catholic but reformed'. I don't quite know where he finds this description in the 1662 prayer book, but I think it is a true description of the Church of England as it has been hitherto.

The main point to insist upon is that this view has nothing to do with disparagement of women and their work; it is due to loyalty to the practice of the Church over nearly 2,000 years. See how many women saints we commemorate in the course of a year. It is a woman that we acknowledge as Queen of Saints, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

I am sorry that Philip is going over to Rome - but then I couldn't myself, because I can't accept Papal infallibility.

Richard Cole. Ellesborough Manor, Aylesbury

The Ordination of Women

I read with interest the May *Point three* article by Philip Griffin regarding his decision to leave the Anglican church, in the light of the ordination of women priests in the Church of England.

Whilst not questioning his sincerity, I regret the inference (as I see it) in his last paragraph - 'For those of us who are deeply committed to our faith, who try and live by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to follow His example...' - that those who hold an opposite view on this issue necessarily lack that degree of commitment.

Cyril Cattell. Axminster, Devon

Editors Note: This subject has already generated a lot of interest. We have had to hold over several letters for the next issue of *Point Three* and hope that this encouraging response to our new series will continue!

Provoking Thought

As a member of Toc H since 1939, I feel impelled to write a letter of congratulation upon the improved appearance of *Point three*. The provocative articles which appear from time to time have added interest, and have driven many members to re-think their attitude to what they have so long considered sacrosanct.

I was interested in the feature on India, based on Kerala, for there is a link between that distant town and Reutlingen in Germany. A friend of mine is on the staff of the technical college there and was for some years head of the German department in the University of Kerala. His three children have each participated on Toc H projects and, only a few days ago, I received a request for a 1994 Project Booklet from my friend, Dieter Siegrist, due to local German interest in Toc H.

Looking back on my years of Toc H membership, during which I served 10 years on the Central Council and five years on the CEC, I yearned for the day when Toc H projects and principles would be introduced among the young in Germany. The young I met in 1948 are now grandparents, but I believe they absorbed something of what Toc H really represented - and at a time when the wounds of war had scarcely begun to heal.

It is surely fitting - at a time when we commemorate with thanksgiving the sacrifices of our own youth during the Normandy landings - the prelude to the cessation of the Second World War - that Toc H should press forward with its avowed objective of reconciliation. And where better for young people of European nations to meet than at projects, camps and conferences promoted by Toc H!

Wyn Roberts
Wrexham

Changing the Ceremony of Light

I thought April's *Point three*, with its many aspects of religion, was both interesting and informative. The main reason for writing, however, is to request that Laurence Binyon's poem be officially excluded from the Ceremony of Light. I realise that some readers will protest, and am interested in gauging a response.

Immediately after the 1914-18 war, the words of Laurence Binyon were fitting for those who had recently lost dear friends and relatives, and indeed for everyone. The words, '*At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them*', were true.

Now 76 years have passed since that Armistice Day, and the conclusion of the 1939-45 war was nearly 50 years ago. Should we not thank God that we are advancing and maturing to closer, less belligerent, contact with our European neighbours, and stop mumbling the words '*they shall grow not old...*'? I also feel that plans to celebrate D-Day are inappropriate. Surely we have grown out of these sentiments and it is wrong to perpetuate them?

Nell Tracey, Llandrindod Wells

International Penfriends

In response to your request for details about branch links with the wider Movement, Oldham Branch have been in contact with Toc H New Zealand for many years. The letters have provided a wonderful and entertaining introduction to the lifestyle of Toc H in a far off country, and we have been made to feel part of their fellowship. They have been a source of great comfort and support to me personally during difficult times - it is like a light at the end of a very dark tunnel to know that people so far away are constantly thinking and praying for you.

Linda May, Oldham



We in Australia are all delighted and grateful for the support of the Overseas Development Fund, to expand the work and influence of Toc H in this country. When the Australian Council in Adelaide meets soon, more precise goals for the next three years will be drawn up and criteria for progress will be decided upon. Our new Vision Statement for Toc H Australia will guide us in these tasks.

**Ray Geise,
Chairman Toc H Australia**

Toc H South Australia

Toc H in South Australia is run by an Area Executive of six with, this year, four co-options. Ex-officio are the Area Chaplain, Rob McEwin, and the Area Commissioner, Jim Peat. The Area Commissioner is on the Australian Council and is responsible for the national organisation for Toc H in this State. All Toc H positions are voluntary, except for our part-time office secretary, Mrs Mary Burford.



The photo shows our headquarters in Adelaide

We are involved in several expressions of Toc H, including the traditional Toc H Branch. We have Toc H Action Groups in schools.

We have been running camps for disadvantaged and disabled children for many years. Stefan Ptak and his team of volunteers run the three main camps each year. Yvette Lambert is working this year at developing more traditional (UK style) projects.



Toc H nationally runs a Youth Leadership Training Programme. The photo shows recent participants. At present there is one course a year and we hope to expand the programme with Areas running additional courses. We have found that participants in these courses develop a lot of interest in Toc H which can be harnessed.

Christopher Winnall is the Chairman of the Area Executive and is always looking out for new expressions for Toc H. He is planning to develop craft workshops, along the lines of one operating at a local church.

**David Hall
Australian Secretary**

BRANCH NEWS

Welcome to 20 New Members

Susan Dougherty, Felicity Facer (Berlin J)
Kevin Chandra, June A Robertson,
Kenneth Salt (Birmingham District)
Brian K Haynes (Broughton Astley M)
Sybil Blewett, Doris Wells (Central Branch)
Paul D Fenning (Charlton J)
Gillian Bond, Carys A Hughes (Crewe &
N Staffs District)
Alan R Budge (Huddersfield District)
Edith McGruer (Kempston J)
Olive Guilder (Margate W)
Nicloa C Gunning (Munster J Group)
Herbert F Goffin (North Walsham J)
David Harriman, Alan Sudron,
Cedric-Jean Sudron (Paderborn J)
Doris Hotchkin (Plympton W)

Betty Martin of **Poole Branch** wanted readers to share a lovely story about the Bournemouth Sinfonietta's visit to Romania. The trip was preceded by a BBC TV South appeal for musical instruments, guitar strings, reeds, etc., and van loads were collected: 'The first stark images of neglected orphanage children to reach out from our television screens brought mixed feelings of outrage and compassion. Their plight was indicative of the tremendous social problems facing Romania. Humanitarian aid met their immediate needs, but what about the future? In March, the Sinfonietta went to Romania with a programme of concerts, skill-sharing and community music. Funded by the British Council, it was their contribution to the construction of post-revolutionary Romania.'



Membership secretary Win Heal, retired in April after 20 years work at Headquarters. The photo shows Barbara Martin, Win and Hazel Scarlett, with Win's husband, Albert, holding a cheque from Toc H members. Win writes: 'I would like to thank my colleagues and friends for their messages, good wishes and donations for my retirement - which I am already enjoying! As I will still be living in Wendover, I hope to keep in touch and meet up with some of you in the future.'

Members of **Morecambe Branch** were upset by the theft of the two Lamps from their branch rooms. The thief forced a window and ransacked the kitchen. During the past 12 months the branch has had a number of set-backs, but they hope that the recent supportive visit by Director Mike Lyddiard heralds the start of better times.



Tunbridge Wells East Branch has recently closed. Chairman Harry Mackellow writes: 'Members wanted to use the money from the benevolent fund for a really good cause. They presented a television and video to Ward 11 at Kent and Sussex Hospital to replace those that had been stolen.'



News from Germany Members in Germany have recently enjoyed visits from Mike and Ruth Lyddiard, Pat and Jack Turner, Arthur and Jean Heffernan and John and Louisa Evans. Mike presented a Toc H Lamp to the newly formed **Paderborn Branch** and visited the new Herford bookshop.

A New Toc H Charity Shop in Cleveland



Toc H has extended its work in the Middlesbrough community with the opening of a Toc H Thrift Shop on the St Hilda's housing estate. The new shop was officially opened on 25 April by Cleveland District Chairer, Audrey Smith.

It is the result of the hard work of Station Branch members, especially Edie Coltman, who is seen in the photograph immediately above, on the left of Audrey. Edie first became involved with Toc H

through a Friendship Circle and is now a keen Branch member. She believes that Toc H has helped her to recover from her illness and hopes that the shop will generate enough funds to continue Toc H's valuable work in the community, as well as providing a new resource for local people. A buffet reception was held at the Toc H office nearby in Webb House, and CEC member, Pat Turner, founder of the Kempston Charity Shop, was the guest speaker.



The editor joined 15 members for a very successful training event, **Facing and Working with Failure**, run by Bill Bains, Ann Crouch and Barry Englefield, at Wortley Hall, Sheffield from 22 to 24 April.

Daniel Simon, Dean of Toc H India in Trivandrum, writes that Toc H in India is 'reviving its activities with much vigour and full speed'. The Toc H India Council met on 9/10 April in Madras State. Two new members were registered during April, Mr Kuppu Swamy Bobin V. Raj and Mr Kohan Bipin V. Raj.

Members of **Melton Mowbray Branch** have decided to form an afternoon group for those who do not wish to turn out in the evening. Members meet on Wednesday afternoons after the Friendship Circle meeting, which enables Circle members to join in if they wish. The Friendship Circle has been running since 1991 and has an average attendance of 12. In the school holidays they welcome Jeffrey, a teenager who has difficulty with his speech. They have enjoyed many outings together and hope to picnic in Melton Country Park in the summer. Joyce Beeken writes, 'Everything runs smoothly, thanks to Sheila, May and Vera'.

Tributes

We regret to announce the death of the following members

John E Knight (Huddersfield District)

December

Margaret Hawcroft (Guisborough)

January

Ethel Smith (Central Overseas Branch)

February

Lorna Bottomley (Bebington & Bromborough)

Malcolm G Maxwell (Mid Norfolk/Norwich District)

Robert L Watson (Late Cotswolds District)

March

William A Barnes (Middlesbrough)
 Edward Brown (Jedburgh)
 Thomas P Butler (Late Central Overseas)
 John L 'Larry' Brogan (Newcastle Staffs)
 Irene Griffiths (Much Wenlock)
 Lionel Holden (Worthing)
 Emyr Jones (Corwen)
 Max Rudolf Loewy
 (Western Approaches & Chiltern Vale)
 Douglas S Murdoch (Coney Hall)
 Ellis H Rosser (St Annes-on-Sea)
 Ivy H Rutherford (Leominster)

April

Edward Curry (Northampton)
 Rose E Davies (Broughton Astley)
 Ivy G Rutherford (Leeds)

Not Previously Recorded

Colonel Sir Thomas Butler, Bt, has died at the age of 83. A former Governor of the Tower of London, he was recruited into Toc H by Tubby Clayton, and a real bond of mutual sympathy and respect developed. He was a member of the Central Executive of Toc H through this close friendship and was also an active member of the Services Committee. He was appointed OBE in 1954 and CVO in 1970

GD

Rudolf Loewy, a member of Western Approaches and Chiltern Vale Branch, died on 6 April at the age of 80. Rudolf's great passions were climbing and Toc H. He started both at Mark VIII in Sheffield, where he climbed and abseiled from the chimney stacks. Always an enthusiastic member, he was a valued friend and Pilot of the Branch at Kingsbury, North West London. He later moved to Harrow Branch and in recent years was Secretary of Western Approaches District. Combining an imaginative mind with the ability to form deep friendships, he supported many on their journey of faith. He will be sadly missed by those he so generously helped. KRR

Much Wenlock Branch has been saddened by the death of their Pilot, **Irene Griffiths**, who died on Easter Day, having just celebrated her 74th birthday. She was an active member of her church fellowship, a member of the local ladies choir and regularly delivered meals on wheels. She was our dear friend and lived up to the Toc H family ideals of prayer and service in a most unassuming way. We thank God for her life among us.

CT

John Bond was a fully committed and most loyal member of the Griffithstown, Gwent Branch as well as a wonderful friend, with wide-ranging interests. He had a deep respect and love for the Old House, Poperinge. His love of people brought him many friends, for whom his passing leaves an inevitable gap. His letters showed a lively interest in so many subjects and always a deep concern for the continuing health and development of Toc H.

JH

The town of Jedburgh was saddened at the weekend by the death of **Eddie Brown**, a lifelong member. Eddie had been in failing health for sometime, but always remained cheerful and keenly interested in the affairs of Toc H. He was Chairman of the Borders District a few years ago and will be long remembered for his sterling work as Chairman of the Jedburgh Toc H Veterans Club. He will be sadly missed.

ES

Enfield Women's Branch are sorry to announce the death of former member, **Mrs Ethel Smith** on the 2 February in Canada, at the age of 89. Ethel was active in the Branch, carrying out the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. After being widowed in the early 60s, she went to Canada to join her daughter and family. Ethel kept in touch with the Movement through *Point three*, contact with Enfield Branch and her many trips back home. We shall miss her interesting letters.

DD

A member of Guisborough Branch, **Mrs Margaret Howcroft**, died on 30 January. She helped with the Heart and Stroke Group and we will miss her.

GS

Members of Corwen Branch report the sudden death of **Emyr Jones** on 19 April at the age of 59, just six weeks after his retirement. He had been involved with Toc H over a number of years and held the posts of Branch Secretary, District Secretary and Central Councillor. Toc H has lost a hardworking and faithful member and we will always remember him.

DLW

Lionel Holden, a member of Worthing Branch, suffered a heart attack and died in early April. Lionel was Sussex born and bred and always a keen Toc H member. After the death of his first wife, Lionel married Bess, a widow, who supported him in Toc H. They moved to Cornwall and Lionel visited Sussex whenever he could. He was a very good Christian man and practised his devotions every day. He started the Flashing Lamp Service in Worthing, was Jobmaster for many years and Pilot for some time. We will remember him.

WHD

Members of Leominster Branch are mourning the death of popular assistant secretary, **Mrs Ivy Rutherford**, who died on 5 April. Despite illness and a major operation two years ago, Ivy was a stalwart of the branch. She helped to raise hundreds of pounds by making beautifully crafted toys, coat hangers and peg bags. Ivy's motto must have been 'get up and go' and she certainly did that, helping many different organisations. She showed great interest in others and always had a ready smile.

HH

**PART-TIME
FRIENDSHIP CIRCLES
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

17½ Hours

This post is to establish Friendship Circles in Plymouth. The work is concerned with the support of people recovering from mental illness.

The work is funded by Devon County Council Social Services.

Salary in the range of £11,765 - £17,575 (pro rata) plus mileage allowance.

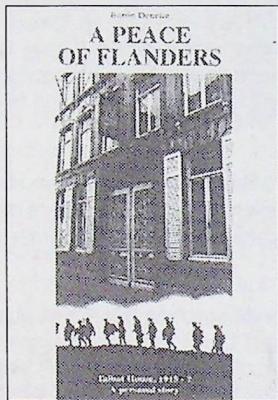
Further details and application form from the Personnel Officer, Toc H, 1, Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT
Telephone (0296) 623911

Closing Date: 3 June 1994

A PEACE OF FLANDERS

by
Bertin Deneire

Price £8



Talbot House is without doubt one of the most famous British houses on the Continent. During the First World War it served as a rest and recuperation centre for the British armies and Tubby Clayton opened it as an 'Every Man's Club' where soldiers of every rank could pause and forget the war for a short while. Now it serves both as a hostel and as a living museum attracting thousands upon thousands of British and other nationals on a visit to the famous battle fields of Flanders.

In his book, Bertin Deneire, who has been involved with Talbot House since boyhood, tells of the numerous ties between Flanders, Poperinge and England, of his personal involvement, and of the origins of Toc H.

Copies available from Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

The Work Ethic

In March staff in Cleveland ran an evening CAMEO, *The Work Ethic*. It generated lively and interesting discussion and a repeat is planned for the weekend of 24-26 June. This will allow time for greater consideration of issues and sessions examining the social and psychological effects of work and changes in work practices. Along with planned leisure time, this event promises to be a stimulating and thought-provoking weekend.

The cost is £15 (with subsidies available for those on low income).

Further details from:

John Dunwell / Marilyn Surtees, The Toc H Office, 7 Zetland Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 1EH
Tel: 0642 230982
(or refer to event No.32 in the Spring '94 Project Booklet)

Friends of Alison House Week

6-13 August

Join the Friends of Alison House and enjoy a truly traditional week, including walks, competitions and an opportunity to visit local events. There will be plenty of time for individual pursuits and relaxation in the peaceful atmosphere of Alison House. Each evening will have an activity to interest, amuse or maybe even educate you. An opportunity to visit a country house or garden is usually arranged, as is a trip to the theatre.

Price £160 per person (excluding outings).

Further details of this and other events at Alison House may be obtained by sending a SAE to:

Bill and Dorothy Pepper, Alison House Training and Conference Centre, Intake Lane, Cromford, Derbyshire DE4 3RH

Funds For CAMEOS

The CEC have set up a Cameo Development Group to encourage and oversee the growth of Cameos. It has a small sum of 'seedcorn' money which it can allocate (up to a maximum of £300 to any one Cameo) to encourage new Cameos. Any person wishing to know more about its availability and the conditions necessary for the grant to be made, should write to the Methods Administration Officer at Headquarters:

John Biggerstaff, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 10p a word (minimum £1) plus VAT, to *Point three Magazine*. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Falmouth Toc H Holiday House

Accommodation for 5 plus cot.

Open all year.

Enquiries Ron Gatiss - Tel: 0326 312689